

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 SCCT-01 SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-02

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FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 531

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUESSELDORF

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WB PINS

SUBJECT: WEST BERLIN POLICE HAVE A BUSY WEEKEND

1. FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 21, IN COURSE OF ROUTINE SEARCH, BERLIN POLICE DISCOVERED CACHE OF WEAPONS AND MATERIALS FOR MAKING BOMBS IN APARTMENT OF WOLFGANG HERBERT WINTER, MEMBER OF RADICAL PRISONER'S COLLECTIVE AND PREVIOUSLY KNOWN TO POLICE FOR OCCUPATION OF A CHURCH LAST OCTOBER TO PROTEST TREATMENT OF IMPRISONED BAADER-MEINHOF GANG MEMBERS. RAID ON APARTMENT IN WEDDING WAS RESULT OF POLICE INVESTIGATION OF RADICALS BELIEVED TO ASSOCIATE WITH THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSASSINATION OF JUDGE VON DRAENKMANN. POLICE HAD BEEN HOLDING SOME 20 SEARCH WARRANTS FOR POST MONTH AND USING THEM AS NEEDED TO FOLLOW UP AVAILABLE LEADS. ONLY FOUR OR FIVE WARRANTS HAD BEEN USED THROUGH FRIDAY MORNING, BUT POLICE QUICKLY SEARCHED 14 MORE DURING THE AFTERNOON WITH NO SIGNIFICANT

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RESULTS. THERE ARE STILL NO FIRM SUSPECTS IN VON DRAENKMANN

MURDER CASE BUT POLICE ARE ENCOURAGED BY FRIDAY'S SUCCESSFUL RAID, WHICH THEY BELIEVED INDICATES THEY ARE WORKING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

2. MEETING OF SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 21-23 RECEIVED MASSIVE POLICE PROTECTION AND WAS MARRED ONLY BY TWO MINOR DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST PRESENCE OF ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON AND FORMER PREMIER MEIR. PORTUGUESE PREMIER SOARES CANCELLED ATTENDANCE AT LAST MOMENT. ISRAELIS WERE MET AT TEMPELHOF AIRPORT BY GOVERNING MAYOR SCHUTZ AND HEAVY POLICE GUARD, WHICH ESCORTED THEM TO DOWNTOWN HOTEL IN CUSTOM-BUILT BULLET-PROOF MERCEDES. HUNDREDS OF DETECTIVES AND UNIFORMED POLICEMEN WITH SUB-MACHINE GUNS AND DOGS GUARDED HOTEL KEMPINSKI AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES UNION FACILITY IN WANNSEE DISTRICT, WHERE MEETINGS WERE HELD, AND WHICH WAS WRAPPED IN BARBED WIRE FOR THE OCCASION. DESPITE VAGUE RUMORS OF POSSIBLE TERRORIST ATTACK, THERE WERE NO SERIOUS INCIDENTS.

3. AT 0530 FEBRUARY 23, MAJOR FIRE BROKE OUT IN GROUND FLOOR RESTAURANT AREA OF BERLIN HILTON HOTEL. FIRE BLOCKED ELEVATORS, TRAPPING 50 GUESTS ON HOTEL'S ROOF GARDEN AND CAUSING POLICE TO REQUEST US ARMY HELICOPTER FOR POSSIBLE RESCUE. US AGREED REQUEST AND HELICOPTER WAS ABOUT TO TAKE OFF WHEN POLICE REPORTED ALL GUESTS SAFELY REMOVED FROM HOTEL BY FIRE DEPARTMENT. (BOTH BRITISH AND FRENCH HAD BEEN - ASKED BUT WERE UNABLE TO HELP BECAUSE BRITISH HELICOPTERS WERE TOO SMALL AND FRENCH HAD NONE.) DAMAGE VARIOUSLY ESTIMATED BETWEEN ONE AND FOUR MILLION DM. POLICE HAVE NOT YET IDENTIFIED CAUSE OF FIRE BUT SUSPECT ARSON. GEORGE

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